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1969/02/21

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Control: 468/052

Date:

21 Feb 69

POL
AMB
DCM
CHICOM

ACTION: Secstate WARHDC 8128

INFO: Embassy HONG KONG 887
Embassy MOSCOW 724

Warsaw 468

SUBJECT: Polish Reaction to Cancellation of Warsaw Talks

REF: Moscow 554, Warsaw 448

1. Polish press February 20 carries TASS commentary on US-China talks re Chinese dissatisfaction Warsaw site as reported para 3, Moscow 554. Names Geneva as possible alternative.
2. Berensowski in Trybuna Ludu article entitled "US has left door open for talks with Peking" claims US, while not expecting breakthrough at one meeting, had considered renewed contact "symbolic prelude to regular and more frequent talks." Notes recent conciliatory US gestures, including assurances to Chinese that "Sentinal" system not directed at them, growing domestic acceptance of need to improve US-Chinese relations which previously viewed as "heresy" and attenuation of trade restrictions. Also reports US intended to discuss tele-postal relations and take up

POL:JHendelacha:sg 2/21/69

DCM:VLJenkins, Jr.

POL:TSexil:sm

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Agency: WASHAV

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Chinese "peaceful coexistence" proposal in "fundamental contrast to previous 134 meetings."

3. Baranowski evaluates main merit talks as "pressure tool in US-USSR dialogue" wherein lies great US disappointment. Cites US analysis of division in Peking ruling circles re decision to cancel talks and alleges Chinese attempting to drive up bargaining price and test US interest in pursuing contacts.

4. Rycie Warsawy carries same TASS item plus brief French despatch (Moscow 554). Glabinski reports US press had been speculating on possible cancellation thus it disappointing but not surprising. Feeling now is that cancellation does "not signify radical change and does ^{not} close doors on future talks." Mentions forthcoming NY conference on China trade and adds that Liao He-shu likely to leave US and settle in Taiwan.

5. EW Feb 21 prints brief commentary by Jasanski which in contrast previous days NY despatch calls cancellation of talks a surprise to Washington. Reviews history Chinese efforts re-initiate talks after 13 month pause and gives

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reasons for recent reversal. Explains US commentators see
Liao Ho-sun affair only as pretext and that renewed contacts
"later and elsewhere" not excluded. In this connection,
Geneva again mentioned as possible site, along with Hong-
Kong, where "unofficial" US-Chinese talks currently take
place. EW concludes with observation US had concrete
propositions to present and Chinese motives for initiating
talks still valid, thus dialog just beginning.

6. In interesting coincidence both TL and EW carry short
MAP item Feb. 21 from Peking reporting Polish Embassy
reception on occasion arrival new trade counselor, J. Kubicki.
Despatch mentions representatives Foreign and Trade ministries
attended and that previously Kubicki had called on Vice
Minister Foreign Trade Li Chang. While trade contacts not
completely severed, such report of socializing marks change
from recent observations Polish MFA officials that Polish
Embassy in Peking had no meaningful contact with Foreign
Ministry.

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Chinese "peaceful coexistence" proposal in "fundamental contrast to previous 134 meetings."

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